



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE REPATRIATES MEXICAN NATIONAL WANTED FOR MURDERING 8-YEAR-OLD BOY IN JALISCO

SANTA ROSA, Calif. – A Santa Rosa man wanted for the suspected kidnapping and murder of an 8-year old boy in the Mexican State of Jalisco has been returned to his native country to face charges. Antonio Avalos-Godinez was removed from the United States Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and turned over to Mexican federal authorities and the Jalisco State Police.

Avalos was arrested at his Santa Rosa residence February 16 by a team of federal and local law enforcement personnel, including officers from ICE, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Santa Rosa Police Department, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, and the Sonoma County Probation Office.

The FBI initiated the search for Avalos in Sonoma County after receiving a lead on his whereabouts from the FBI attaché in Mexico. When officers arrived at Avalos' home last week, he provided them with a false name, but did admit to being in the country illegally. ICE agents took Avalos into custody, and a subsequent check of his fingerprints confirmed he was the suspect wanted in connection with the slaying of the eight-year-old boy in Jalisco. The boy's body has not yet been found.

"ICE is working with law enforcement agencies here and around the globe to protect our communities from violent criminals," said Charles DeMore, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in San Francisco. "This arrest should send a strong signal to fugitives that the world's borders will not serve as boundaries for the law."

The identification and removal of criminal aliens like Avalos is one of ICE's top enforcement priorities. In the first quarter of this fiscal year (October 2004 through December 2004), ICE removed nearly 19,000 criminal aliens nationwide. More than 900 of those criminal alien removals were carried out by ICE's Detention and Removal office headquartered in San Francisco.

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